GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PANCHAYATI RAJ
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:117
ANSWERED ON:10.03.2005
FUNCTIONING OF PANCHAYATI RAJ INSTITUTIONS
Chinta Mohan Dr. ;Thomas Shri P.C.

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether any national level survey has been conducted by the Government about functioning of Panchayati Raj Institutions in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of those States where Panchayati Raj Institutions are functioning effectively;

(d) the names of those States where Panchayati Raj Institutions have not been constituted as yet alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR)

(a), (b), (c), (d) & (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN PARTS (a), (b), (c), (d) & (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.117 DUE FOR REPLY ON 10.3.2005 REGARDING FUNCTIONING OF PANCHAYATI RAT INSTITUTIONS

(a) & (b) No national level survey has been conducted by the Government about functioning of Panchayati Raj Institutions in the country. However the information available with the Ministry of Panchayati Raj indicates that the Panchayati Raj System is being implemented in all the States/Union Territories to which Part IX of the Constitution apply except for Jharkhand and Pondicherry where elections are still to be held and NCT of Delhi where the Panchayati Raj Act had been suspended several years back. However, implementation is uneven. Therefore, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj convened seven Round Table Conferences with the State Ministers in charge of Panchayati Raj and evolved by consensus a set of around 150 points for action which have been put together in a compendium that was adopted unanimously at the conclusion of the last Round Table in Jaipur.

(c) As may be seen from the Statement showing the status of devolution of funds,functions and functionaries given in the enclosed Annexure that PR Institutions are functioning fairly effectively in some States and are becoming progressively effective in others.

(d)& (e) Panchayati Raj Institutions have not been constituted as yet in Jharkhand and Pondicherry) Elections have not been held in Jharkhand on account of some controversy on the issue of non-tribal population in Schedule V Areas. The Government of Jharkhand has informed the Government of India that the State Government has since amended the Jharkhand Panchayati Raj Act,2001 in November, 2003 and elections will be held in the near future. The High Court of Jharkhand has asked the State Government to hold the elections.The Union Territory of Pondicherry has informed that the elections in Pondicherry could not be held as there were court cases pertaining to reservation for backward classes.

The matter has now been settled and the necessary steps for the conduct of the elections were being made. However,Pondicherry and Karaikal Regions were unfortunately struck by the devastating Tsunami on 26th December, 2004, putting the people into hardship and requiring the entire Administrative Machinery to be geared to attend to relief and rehabilitation works. The Government of Pondicherry expects that the situation will come back to normalcy in about three months, by which time it might be possible for them to hold the elections sometime in May, 2005. The NCT of Delhi had suspended the Panchayati Raj Act several years back and it is now actively considering the reviving of Panchayats in Delhi.